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SUBJECT: EASTERN DRC NOTES -- JUNE 22

¶1. (U) The information contained in this cable consists principally of spot reports from various sources. This cable is not exhaustive, nor can all the information contained therein be confirmed at this time

Security situation in Haut Uele

¶2. (SBU) An NGO source told us that on June 18 the LRA killed a man three kilometers from Awagon. The LRA also brutally massacred a father and his two sons on June 17 at Mandara, 15 kilometers east of the Watsa-Faradje axis. The night of June 17-18 the LRA exchanged fire with UPDF/FARDC forces near Tadu. Since June 1, according to our contact, the LRA has killed nine people along the Watsa-Faradje axis.

¶3. (SBU) DDRRR will soon open an office in Dungu to facilitate repatriation of LRA to Uganda. The office will utilize a transmitter to broadcast messages urging LRA cadres to defect and to provide instructions for seeking safe haven. Other transmitters will broadcast from inside Uganda and southern Sudan in an effort to blanket the areas where the LRA operates. (Comment: This represents a significant expansion of DDRRR operations that could help counter LRA propaganda that abductees cannot safely return to their communities. End comment.)

Security situation in the Kivus

¶4. (SBU) The FARDC clashed with the APCLS (PARECO-Hunde) north of Nyabiondo on June 17, resulting in five FARDC killed. There were no estimates of APCLS casualties. Many APCLS (estimated in mid-April at 614) were relocated to Mutera and joined the integration process. Conflict in the area has reportedly unleashed a flood of new IDPs now heading for the Masisi area.

¶5. (SBU) MONUC announced it would no longer facilitate the integration of armed groups in North Kivu. MONUC and the GDRC continued to accept militia members for almost two months past the formal closure of the North Kivu integration centers. North Kivu armed groups who want to join the process will now have to travel to South Kivu integration centers.

¶6. (SBU) Seven men were reportedly abducted by the FDLR from the village of Kamitungu. MONUC is attempting to verify a report that eight villages were burned by the FDLR in the vicinity of Luzira (west of Kalehe).

Integration and release of imprisoned combatants

¶7. (SBU) A FARDC source reports that 900 Mai Mai militia

troops in Kindu want to integrate into the FARDC. MONUC sources verified that two militia groups, Blanga and Kalole-Bikenga, have come forward for integration, but their numbers are not confirmed. The integration option has not been extended to Maniema Province during the current phase of conflict in the eastern DRC.

18. (SBU) Radio Okapi reported June 22 that approximately 100 imprisoned North and South Kivu armed group combatants, whose detention has been terminated by the Minister of Justice under the terms of the 2009 amnesty law, cannot leave DRC prisons in Kinshasa, Kamina, Goma and Bukavu until arrangements for integration into the FARDC or civil society have been completed. Local Human rights NGO VSV hailed the release of those illegally detained, but cautioned that the amnesty does not cancel responsibility for criminal acts.

DRC criticizes UN coordination

19. (SBU) Government Spokesman and Information and Media Minister Lambert Mende told Radio Okapi June 22 that the recent letter to the UN Security Council and Secretary General from DRC UN ambassador Ileka Itoka did not call into question the work of the UN agencies in the DRC, but noted a lack of coordination and the need to improve the clarity and visibility of UN efforts. Mende noted that the UN funds are entrusted to the implementing agency rather than the GDRC, which retards the capacity building necessary for the democratically elected DRC institutions. He said the letter represented a "positive and friendly criticism" of the UN

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agencies work in the DRC.
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